

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, GT, BH, UK, GY

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE - PRESS STATEMENT BY GUYANA MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY GUYANA MFA WAS PASSED OUT AT FOURTH
COMMITTEE MEETING DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF BELIZE ON
NOVEMBER 7.

QUOTE 144. FOLLOWING FOR AMBASSADOR JACKSON:-

FOLLOWING STATEMENT BEING ISSUED TODAY.

"CONFIRMED REPORTS REACHING GEORGETOWN HAVE INDICATED
THAT MILITARY FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA ARE POISED
ALONG THE FRONTIER OF BELIZE IN APPARENT READINESS FOR AN
ATTACK ON THAT SMALL DEFENCELESS COUNTRY. THIS ACT OF
AGGRESSION THAT THREATENS THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE
HEMISPHERE IS AN ATTEMPT AT DENYING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
OF BELIZE TO SELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND TO THE
PURSUIT IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM FEAR OF THEIR OWN POLITICAL,
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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF

GUYANA HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN AND ELSEWHERE WHICH HAVE CHAMPIONED THE RIGHT OF BELIZE TO PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE AND HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THOSE COUNTRIES INCLUDING GUATEMALA THAT WOULD SEEK TO ACQUIRE TERRITORY BY FORCE, OR, THROUGH ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND INTIMIDATION, TO FORCE OTHERS AGAINST THEIR WILL TO RETAIN A COLONIAL STATUS THEY DESPISE AND REPUDIATE. SUCH A SITUATION EXISTS IN BELIZE TODAY. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE CDE. PRIME MINISTER HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:-

'MY GOVERNMENT IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED BY THE RENEWED CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE AND MILITARY THREATS BEING MOUNTED BY GUATEMALA AGAINST THE SMALL STATE OF BELIZE. IT IS THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS SO FAR PREVENTED THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE FROM ACHIEVING THE INDEPENDENCE TO WHICH THEY ASPIRE AND WHICH ALSO JEOPARDISES THE PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON WHICH THEY ARE EMBARKED.

THE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR OF GUATEMALA HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY A MAJORITY OF STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AT THEIR RECENT MEETING IN LIMA, PERU, EXPRESSED THEIR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. IN AFFIRMING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE AND THE RIGHT OF ITS PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO ALL EFFORTS DIRECTED TO THOSE ENDS.

THE LATEST MOVES BY GUATEMALA ARE NOT ONLY A THREAT TO THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. THEY ARE CALCULATED TO ERODE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE REGION AT A TIME WHEN ALL OF ITS EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TASK OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION.

MY GOVERNMENT PLEDGES ITS SUPPORT TO ASSIST IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.'

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS"
MOYNIHAN
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